

REMARKS

The Office examined claims 1, 5-7, 11-13, 15-19, 32, 34, and 36-42 and rejected same. With this paper, claims 1, 7, 11-13, 15-19, 32 and 40 are amended, claims 20-31 and 33-37 are canceled (in which claims 20-31, 33 and 35 are previously withdrawn), and new claim 43 and 44 are added. Support for the amendment of claims 1, 7, 13, 15 and 40 changing from "card" to "auxiliary device" can be found on page 2, lines 11-15 of the originally filed specification.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC §103

The Office rejected claims based on the following grounds:

Claims 1, 7, 11, 13, 15-19, 32, 34 and 36-37 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Oh-Yang et al. (U.S. Patent 6,351,820, Oh-Yang hereinafter) in view of Khouli et al. (U.S. Patent 6,308,278, Khouli hereinafter).

Claims 5-6, 12 and 38-42 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Oh-Yang in view of Khouli and further in view of Lindskog et al. (U.S. 2002/0132603).

In the rejected claims, claims 1, 7, 13, 16, 17, 19, 32, 34, 36 and 37 are independent. With this paper, claims 1, 7, 13, 16, 17, 19 and 32 are amended and claims 34, 36 and 37 are canceled.

Claim 1 is redirected to a method for used by an auxiliary device. Briefly speaking, the method of claim 1 comprises (1) receiving a command from a terminal for changing mode of the device from a dormant mode to a normal mode, (2) changing the mode of the device from the dormant mode to the normal mode in response to the command, and (3) transmitting to the terminal an indication of mode change so that the device can be used by the terminal immediately (added limitations underlined).

The primary reference Oh-Yang teaches a PC card 10 that is connectable to a computer interface 80 of a computer system. The card has a normal state and a sleep state. In col. 5, line 66 to col. 6, line 3, Oh-Yang teaches that the computer system may directly give commands to the PC card to change the PC card into the sleep state or to resume the normal state. However, Oh-Yang fails to teach transmitting to the terminal an indication of mode change from the card (as acknowledged by the Office on page 5, lines 10-15 of the Detailed Action).

The secondary reference, Khouli, teaches a computer having a power management device to supply the computer and various peripheral devices connected to the computer a normal voltage or a standby voltage. The peripheral devices, which include keyboard, mouse, modem, LAN controller, monitor or display, are monitored by an I/O device of the computer. When the computer is in the power saving mode (i.e. the standby voltage is supplied), the I/O device detects any activity in the peripheral devices and generates a control signal (such as a SCI signal) to wake up the computer (i.e. switch to normal voltage supply). The control signal is generated by the I/O device, for example, in response to a detected LAN controller activity. It is apparent that Khouli relates to the present application merely in that it teaches transmitting a signal from the auxiliary device to the terminal.

The present invention is similar to Oh-Yang in signal transmission between a terminal and an auxiliary device for changing the mode of the auxiliary device. However, the present invention is advantageous over Oh-Yang in that, after the mode change, an indication of the mode change is transmitted from the device to the terminal so that the so that the device can be used by the terminal immediately.

The advantages of the present invention over Oh-Yang are described in the present application e.g. on page 3, second paragraph. For instance, normally there is a time delay for a mode change in an auxiliary device, and this time delay may vary from one device to another. Without the terminal being informed of the completion of the mode change, e.g. with a signal indicating the mode change from the device, the terminal has to wait for a predetermined maximum time, in which the terminal believes that the mode of the device have been changed, or the terminal must transmit inquires to the device at intervals until the device informs that it is in the normal mode. The predetermined maximum time causes unnecessary delays if the device is fast to change the mode, or errors of the device is slow to change the mode. Transmitting inquires to the device may cause increased load in the terminal and higher power consumption.

The indication of mode change so that the device can be used immediately solves the above problems existed in the prior art such as Oh-Yang. The solution of having the device send an indication to the terminal has a clear advantage over the approaches of the prior art and such a

solution is not taught or suggested by Oh-Yang. Therefore, the present invention is clearly distinguishable from Oh-Yang.

With this paper, claim 1 is amended to recite that the device transmits to the terminal an indication of the mode change so that the device can be used by the terminal immediately. It is now unmistakable that the indication of the mode change is a response to the command from the terminal, and the indication serves to tell the terminal that the device is ready to use. Such a signal transmission sequence is disclosed neither by Oh-Yang nor by Khouli.

Based on the above, Applicant believes that the amended claim 1 does not read on the combination of Oh-Yang and Khouli. It is respectfully requested the rejection of claim 1 under 35 USC §103(a) be reconsidered and withdrawn.

All other remaining independent claims of the application are amended accordingly. Therefore, these claims are patentable as well. Applicant respectfully requests the above rejections of claims be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Conclusion

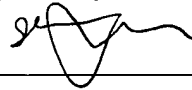
For all the foregoing reasons, it is believed that the remaining claims in the application are allowable, and their passage to issue is earnestly solicited. Applicant's agent urges the Examiner to call to discuss the present response if anything in the present response is unclear or unpersuasive.

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Respectfully submitted,



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